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Draft global immunization strategy

Note by the secretariat

1. The draft global strategy on immunization that has been prepared jointly by UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO) is being presented for approval to the Fifty-Eighth World Health Assembly (16-25 May 2005) in WHO document A58/12. That document contains an executive summary of the draft strategy and a decision for action by the Assembly. It is being made available to the Executive Board in all official languages.

2. The draft strategy is also being presented to the Executive Board for its consideration and approval. The Executive Director *recommends* that the Executive Board adopt the following draft decision:

The Executive Board,

Having considered the report on the draft immunization strategy (E/ICEF/2005/9 and WHO A58/12),

Alarmed that globally and in some regions immunization coverage has increased only marginally since the early 1990s, and that in 2003 more than 27 million children worldwide were not immunized during their first year of life;

Recognizing that each year 1.4 million children under five years of age die from diseases preventable by currently available vaccines;

Further recognizing that each year an additional 2.6 million children under five years of age die because of diseases potentially preventable by new vaccines;

Welcoming the achievements of the accelerated disease-control initiatives against poliomyelitis, measles, and maternal and neonatal tetanus in immunizing previously unreached populations, and *noting* that these initiatives have established

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extensive networks on which surveillance for other disease and health trends can be built or expanded;

Concerned that, owing to financial, structural and/or managerial constraints, national immunization programmes fail to reach all children and women eligible for immunization, underuse many existing vaccines, and are not widely introducing new vaccines;

Emphasizing the need for all countries to strive towards achieving the United Nations Millennium Development Goal of reducing by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under five child mortality rate;

Recalling the target of the United Nations General Assembly's twenty-seventh special session on children (2002) to ensure full immunization of children under one year of age, with at least 90 per cent coverage nationally, and at least 80 per cent coverage in every district or equivalent administrative unit;

Having considered the draft global immunization vision and strategy,

1. *Endorses* the Global Immunization Vision and Strategy;

2. *Urges* countries:

(a) to meet immunization targets expressed in the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and the United Nations General Assembly special session on children;

(b) to adopt the Global Immunization Vision and Strategy as the framework for strengthening of national immunization programmes between 2006 and 2015, with the goal of achieving greater equity in access to immunization, of improving access to existing and future vaccines, and of extending the benefits of vaccination linked with other health interventions to age groups beyond infancy;

(c) to ensure that immunization remains a priority on the national health agenda, and is supported by systematic planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes, and long-term financial commitment;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director:

(a) to work closely with the World Health Organization (WHO), Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI), UNICEF and other partners to provide support to Member States in implementation of the Global Immunization Vision and Strategy;

(b) to strengthen relations at global, regional and subregional levels with WHO, GAVI and other partners in order to mobilize the needed resources for countries to implement the Global Immunization Vision and Strategy;

(c) to report regularly to the Executive Board on progress towards achievement of global immunization targets.